

and to wish her all the best as she enters this new phase of her life.

# CONCERNING VIOLENCE IN MIDDLE EAST

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives is voting on House Concurrent Resolution 426 regarding the current violence in the Middle East. I believe it is appropriate for the United States to express solidarity with Israel, but it is with reluctance that I am voting in favor of this resolution.

I am concerned about the timing and perception of this resolution. The United States has an essential role to play as facilitator of peace. The United States must be careful to encourage the peace process, and not detract from it. I am concerned this resolution may be perceived as placing entire blame for the violence on the Palestinian leadership. That is not the case, and I hope it will not be perceived in that way. In fact, in order to reach a long-lasting peace, both sides will eventually have to accept some responsibility for the current situation.

I remain a strong supporter of Israel and the U.S.-Israel relationship. But it is clear the demonstration by Ariel Sharon in Jerusalem's Old City was an ill-advised provocation. And there probably couldn't have been a worse time for a provocation. Mr. Sharon must have understood how his actions would be perceived. In fact, the Israeli government understood this danger, which is why they provided Mr. Sharon with a security force.

At the same time, Chairman Arafat has clearly used Mr. Sharon's visit as an opportunity to drastically change the dynamics of the peace process. With the recent violence, including the desecration of the West Bank holy site of Joseph's Tomb, Mr. Arafat's ability and willingness to prevent violence and maintain peace throughout Palestinian controlled areas have come into serious question.

On two occasions imprisoned Palestinian militants were released from jail. Although there have been some assurances made that these individuals are being rearrested, militant Palestinian organizations have disputed that, declaring most remain free. In addition, incitement to violence continues to be broadcast from Palestinian Authority radio and television stations. I am hopeful Mr. Arafat will have the ability and willingness to address these issues and restore calm and stability to the areas he is responsible for controlling.

Now is the time for responsible leaders to call on their people to abandon violence as a means of achieving their goals. I am hopeful both leaders will work to restore stability to the region, condemn the use of violence and reiterate their commitment to the peace process. The violence must stop in order for the parties to re-engage in that process.

## HONORING OUR SENIORS

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, we all realize that maintaining good health is imperative to enjoying a long, fulfilling life. And reauthorizing the Older Americans Act is an excellent way for us to provide seniors with the opportunity to live life to its fullest.

The 1965 Older Americans Act created a series of federal programs specifically designed to meet the service needs of seniors. Although older persons may receive services under other federal programs, the Older Americans Act is the major vehicle for organizing and delivering supportive and nutrition services to senior citizens.

Thousands of elderly and disabled Americans rely on quality services such as those provided by the Administration on Aging, and programs like nutrition services, family care giver, elder abuse prevention, long term care, senior community service employment and Native American programs for the elderly.

We, in Congress, must make sure that seniors receive these much needed services and benefits in the most efficient manner possible. Along with state and local agencies, including national associations like Green Thumb, Congress must work diligently to ensure that older Americans can look forward to long, productive lives within their own communities and around the nation.

Seniors serve as grandparents who provide care for numerous children, strengthen families, tutor students, operate computers, teach crafts, work as librarians, and provide many other important community services. Through these efforts, and countless others, senior citizens have helped to make America the great country it is today and will continue to make significant contributions for years to come. Therefore, I challenge all Americans, young and old, to work with me on issues critical to our seniors.

## AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. ASA HUTCHINSON**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman LEACH, Chairman LAZIO, Mr. LAFALCE, and my colleagues on the House Banking Committee for their tireless work on moving legislation that brings some much-needed reforms to the housing industry. For the most part, S. 1452 is a product of which we should all be very proud.

Furthermore, I am pleased to see that several components of H.R. 1776, the Housing and Economic Opportunity Act, have been included in S. 1452. As my colleagues may remember, H.R. 1776 passed our Chamber earlier in the year by an overwhelming and bipartisan vote of 417 to 8. However, there is one particular omission that concerns me. Unfortunately, this omission may ultimately have an

impact on the number of families who may realize the American dream of homeownership.

The provision that has been omitted from S. 1452 is section 102 of H.R. 1776. Section 102 requires that the Federal Government perform a housing impact analysis before it issues new regulations. The impact analysis would determine if a significant negative impact on affordable housing would result from those new regulations. "Significant" would be defined as increasing consumers' cost of housing by more than \$100,000,000 per year. Further, Mr. Chairman, H.R. 1776 stipulates that the private sector would have an opportunity to submit an alternative to the proposed regulation if it would have less of a negative impact on the cost of homeownership.

As with the other provisions in title I of H.R. 1776, the goal of the housing impact analysis is to alert federal agencies and the general public of the impact of regulation on housing affordability. Ultimately, the objective would be to help bring down the cost of a home by minimizing regulations that pose a barrier to homeownership. The housing impact analysis addresses this issue by requiring the Federal Government to perform an "internal check" to see if the regulation might be constructed in a better way that would not lock individuals out of homeownership.

I see this internal check as a positive action, Mr. Speaker, and I am concerned that this worthy provision, a provision 417 of my colleagues supported, was left out S. 1452. I hope that this concept does not die with the closing of the 106th Congress, but is reviewed again next year, with the commencement of the 107th.

## SAND CREEK MASSACRE

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 1864, John M. Chivington and his troops invaded the Native American village of Sand Creek in southern Colorado. At least 150 Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians were murdered along the banks of Sand Creek. The stories of this massacre have been passed down through generations, however, the victims have not received the recognition they deserve.

Last year the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Study Act was signed into law. This Act directed the National Park Service to study, survey, and locate the site of the Sand Creek Massacre and assess the suitability of making the site a part of the National Park Service. From this study, the Park Service identified 12,480 acres as the site of the massacre.

Since then, Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced legislation to designate the 12,480 acres as a National Historic Site. I have worked closely with the Kiowa County Commissioners as well as the landowners within the boundaries of the site to insure private property rights are protected. While the legislation authorizes the Park Service to negotiate for property from willing sellers only, traditional agricultural operations inside the national historic site will continue until the private property owners decide to sell their land. Additionally,